

Claims

1. Use of a composition comprising

5 a) green tea extract and
 b) of at least one NO donor which is a substrate of NO synthetase, and/or
 of one precursor of this NO donor,

for the preparation of a formulation for gastrointestinal administration before
surgical procedures, in order to reduce the risk of postoperative complications or
to avert such a risk.

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2. Use of a composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the NO donor
which is a substrate of NO synthase, or the precursor of this NO donor, is
selected from the group consisting of arginine, glutamine, precursors of these
amino acids, trinitroglycerin, isosorbite dinitrate, nitroprussite, aminoguanidine,
15 spermine-NO, spermidine-NO and SIN 1 (3-morpholinosydnone imine), of the
physiologically tolerated salts or combinations thereof.

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20 3. Use of a composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the surgical
procedure is an elective surgical procedure or an emergency surgical procedure.

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25 4. Use of a composition according to Claim 3, characterized in that the elective
surgical procedure is a gastrointestinal procedure, heart surgery, nose and throat
surgery, an abdominal procedure, vascular and/or joint surgery or
transplantations.

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30 5. Use of a composition according to Claim 3, characterized in that the emergency
surgical procedure is trauma surgery or procedures for clearing up a septic focus.

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6. Use of a composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the green tea
extract includes theanine and polyphenols derived from catechin derivatives.

7. Use of a composition according to Claim 6, characterized in that the catechin
derivatives are selected from the group consisting of (-)-epigallocatechin gallate

(EGCg), (-)-epigallocatechin (EGG), (-)-epicatechin gallate (ECg), (+)-gallocatechin (GC), (-)-epicatechin (EC), (+)-catechin (C) and combinations of two or more constituents thereof.

5 8. Use of a composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that component b) is arginine or an arginine precursor in the form of a di- or tripeptide.

10 9. Use of a composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the latter additionally includes as component c) glycine, a glycine precursor in the form of a di- or tripeptide, of the physiologically tolerated salts thereof or combinations thereof.

15 10. Method for the support of surgical patients against the risk of postoperative complications comprising gastrointestinal administration of a composition comprising

a) green tea extract and
b) at least one NO donor which is a substrate of NO synthetase, and/or one precursor of this NO donor,
before a surgical procedure.

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11. Method according to Claim 10, characterized in that the NO donor which is a substrate of NO synthase, or the precursor of this NO donor, is selected from the group consisting of arginine, glutamine, precursors of these amino acids, trinitroglycerin, isosorbite dinitrate, nitroprussite, aminoguanidine, spermine-NO, spermidine-NO and SIN 1 (3-morpholinosydnone imines), of the physiologically tolerated salts or combinations thereof.

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12. Method according to Claim 10, characterized in that the administration of the composition comprising components a) and b) takes place less than twenty-four hours, preferably less than twelve hours, in particular less than six hours, particularly preferably less than three hours, before the operation.

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13. Use of nutrient formulation which can be administered gastrointestinally and comprises

- a) green tea extract and
- b) at least one NO donor which is a substrate of NO synthetase, and/or one precursor of this NO donor,

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for averting or reducing the risk of postoperative complications after surgical procedures.

14. Use according to Claim 13, characterized in that the NO donor which is a

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substrate of NO synthase, or the precursor of this NO donor, is selected from the group consisting of arginine, glutamine, precursors of these amino acids, trinitroglycerin, isosorbite dinitrate, nitroprussite, aminoguanidine, spermine-NO, spermidine-NO and SIN 1 (3-morpholinosydnone imines), of the physiologically tolerated salts or combinations thereof.